THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Setting up of a R&D fund ih Pharmaceutical sector has already been provided for in the Pharmaceutical Policy 2002, announced by the Government in February, 2002. It includes in principle approval to the establishment of the Pharmaceutical Research & Development Support Fund (PRDSF) under the administrative control of Department of Science & Technology (DST). DST has constituted a Drug Development Promotion Board (DDPB) on the lines of the Technology Development Board (TDB) to administer the utilization of the PRDSF. DST has made a provision of Rs. 150 crores in the 10th Plan.

(b) and (c) As the Data Book of DST, the details of amount spend on R&D in Drugs and Pharmaceuticals from the years 1994-95 to 1996-1999 are as under:

		(Crores of Rupees)
1994-95	:	165.81 (0.4)
1995-96	:	198.73 (0.4)
1996-97	:	266.34 (0.63)
1997-98	:	287.49 (0.63)
1998-99	:	377.50 (0.76)

NOTE: Data in the bracket indicate % of Sales Turnover.

Production rate of non-controlled medicines

†1058. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that production rate of non-controlled medicines is many times more than the production rate of controlled medicines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number and production rate of controlled medicines?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) 74 bulk drugs are specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95). Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/ selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. As per a recent study, it is noted that the availability of medicines in the de-controlled sector is on the higher side as compared to those in the controlled sector.

Fertilizer producing units

†1059. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that chemical fertilizers producing units of the country had been divided into six groups;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the year 2003-04, the production cost in these production units of the said groups has been found to be different;

(c) if so, the production cost assessed separately for each group during the said period; and

(d) the amount of subsidy provided on annual production to each production unit of the said groups?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Until 31.3.2003, subsidy payments to urea units were regulated under the erstwhile unit specific Retention price Scheme (RPS). The RPS has been replaced by group based New Pricing Scheme (NPS) for urea units, which had come into existence w.e.f. 1.4.2003. Under NPS, the existing urea units have been divided into six groups based on vintage and feedstock. The NPS aims at bringing in greater uniformity, transparency and efficiency in disbursement of subsidy to urea

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.